



IOWA E911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting. The Iowa E911 Communications Council met on September 8, 2016, at the West Des Moines City Hall. E911 Surcharge Fund Administrator Blake DeRouchey reported on several items:

- The \$4.4 million allocation to the Department of Public Safety from the E911 Surcharge Fund, as directed by [SF 2326](#), for the second lease payment of the Land Mobile Radio platform has been made.
- It has been decided that the E911 Surcharge Fund will be used to pay for connectivity with the NextGen project. A Request for Proposal to accomplish this has been issued and will close on September 21.
- Work continues with the Office of the Chief Information Officer to develop and maintain the E911 website. A description of the functions of telecommunicators will be added.
- Administrative rules pertaining to changes to the E911 Surcharge Fund made by [HF 2439](#) and [SF 2326](#) will be considered by the Administrative Rules Review Committee on September 13.
- Workshops to educate Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) on the previous Legislative Session's law changes are being held in Sioux City on September 27, Cedar Rapids on September 29, at the State's Operations Center on October 7, and at the Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center on Merle Hay Road in Des Moines on October 24.

PSAP Grant Applications. Seventeen grants for a total of \$3.3 million were approved by the Council. There was discussion regarding if exact criteria has been established for consolidation of PSAPs. At this time, consolidation is interpreted to mean both virtual or physical consolidation, as well as virtual consolidation (through the sharing of a radio system). All of the grant applications approved were of virtual consolidations. Some Council members stated that legislative input is necessary to have a clearer definition of what type of consolidation was meant in [HF 2439](#).

There was also concern from the Council regarding the approval of grant applications on a first-come, first-serve basis means, and how exactly that works if several applications were received at the same time given the cap of \$4.4 million for PSAP grants for FY 2017. Administrator DeRouchey explained that the majority of applications are received by e-mail and would have a time/date stamp to verify when they were received. DeRouchey also stated that an application does not get considered for approval until it has been completely and accurately filled out. He also added that given the cap of \$4.4 million for PSAP grants, using a first-come, first-serve process is increasingly important as there will probably be more applications than funds available.

Legislative Agenda. The Board approved supporting expansion of the E911 Communications Council by one additional member to add a Geographic Information Systems specialist. It was suggested that since the Council does not employ a lobbyist, it would be prudent to write white papers on the different policy changes it favors and to distribute those to the pertinent associations they work with. Also, it was suggested that proposed changes to [Iowa Code chapter 34A](#) may be needed to reflect recent changes. DeRouchey stated that he is already working with the consolidation study consultant on proposed Iowa Code changes.

Other Business. Updated bylaws for the Council were amended and approved. Travel expenses for Council members wanting to attend the upcoming Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) and National Emergency Number Association (NENA) conferences being held in Des Moines in October were approved.

Next Meeting. The next Council meeting will be October 13, 2016, at the West Des Moines City Hall.

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